

REMARKS

Entry of this Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. 1.116 is respectfully requested because it places the application into allowance or in better form for appeal. No new matter is believed to be added to the application by this Amendment.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-12 are pending in the application and stand rejected. The amendments to claims 1 and 2 find support in Table 1 at page 28 of the specification.

Rejection Over Oka

Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Oka (U.S. Patent No. 5,292,132). Applicant traverses.

The Present Invention and Its Advantages

The present invention pertains to a novel golf ball having 360 dimples arranged so that there is only one great circle zone not intersecting with the dimples. The dimples occupy 70% or more of the golf ball's surface.

An important aspect of the invention lies in that two or more rectangles having a 1.0 mm X 2.4 mm size can be formed in an area not lying in any of the dimples, and 20 to 50 of these configurations can be found in a region not proximate to the great

circle zone. See claim 1. These rectangles do not separate from each other and also do not overlap by more than half the entire area of each.

As set forth in instant claim 2, the inventive golf ball can have 40 to 100 of the rectangles both inclusive in the large flat portions formed in the region other than the region proximate to the great circle zone, without the rectangles separating from each other and with the rectangles overlapping each other in an area not more than a half of an entire area of each.

The configuration of the inventive golf ball has the goal of making many large flat portions not containing any dimples. That is, the flat portions are increased in comparison with golf balls of the conventional art. The result of the novel dimple configuration is an attractive looking golf ball that has superior flight distance.

#### Distinctions of the Invention Over Oka

Oka pertains to a golf ball having dimples and lands, where the dimples are arranged so that less than 40 lands are provided which contain a rectangle having a short side greater than 0.4 mm and an area greater than 0.8 mm<sup>2</sup> and not including a part of the dimple or the whole thereof. See Abstract of Oka. Oka at column 1, lines 42-45 states: "It is an essential object of the present invention to provide a golf ball having a long flight distance by

making the area of lands smaller and arranging complex dimples densely on the surface thereof."

That is, Oka decreases the large flat portions. As a result, Oka fails to disclose or suggest or a golf ball that maximizes flat portions.

In contrast, the present invention increases the large flat portions in the range of 20 to 50. That is, the present invention has a fundamentally different technical goal (increasing flat portions) compared to that of Oka (decreasing flat portions). Further, Oka fails to disclose or suggest a golf ball having 20 to 50 large flat portions (claim 1) and 40 to 100 1.0mm x 2.4mm rectangles inclusive in the flat portions (claim 2). As a result, a person having ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to use the teachings of Oka to produce a claimed embodiment of the invention. Thus, a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been made over Oka.

Accordingly, this rejection is overcome and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

### **Conclusion**

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Robert E. Goozner, Ph.D. (Reg. No. 42,593) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an

interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

**Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the application by this Amendment.**

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicant(s) respectfully petition(s) for a three (3) month extension of time for filing a reply in connection with the present application, and the required fee of \$930.00 is attached to the concurrently filed Notice of Appeal.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By Joe M. Murray <sup>Reg No 32,334</sup>  
for Joseph A. Kolasch #22,463

JAK/REG:jls  
2927-0117P

P.O. Box 747  
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747  
(703) 205-8000

Attachment: Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

The claims have been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A golf ball having 360 dimples and only one great circle zone not intersecting with said dimples formed on a surface of said golf ball such that a surface area occupancy percentage of said dimples is 70% or more,

wherein two or more rectangles each having a shorter side of 1.0mm and a longer side of 2.4mm and not containing any of said dimples can be formed in each of large flat portions formed in the range of [16 to 60] 20 to 50 both inclusive in a region other than a region proximate to said great circle zone, without said rectangles separating from each other and with said rectangles overlapping each other in an area not more than a half of an entire area of each thereof.

2. (Amended) The golf ball according to claim 1, wherein rectangles each having a shorter side of 1.0mm and a longer side of 2.4mm are formed in the range of [32 to 120] 40 to 100 both inclusive in said large flat portions formed in said region other than said region proximate to said great circle zone, without said rectangles separating from each other and with said rectangles

overlapping each other in an area not more than a half of an entire area of each thereof.